

A Bitter Choice

Matthew 26:36-56; Mark 14:32-50; Luke 22:39-53; John 18:1-12;
The Desire of Ages, pp. 685-697

Have you ever been punished for something you did not do? If you were, how did you feel? In our Bible story today we will learn about a choice Jesus made, a choice to be punished for something He didn't do.

The Last Supper was over. Jesus and His disciples walked to the Mount of Olives. They climbed to the Garden of Gethsemane, a place where Jesus often prayed.

Jesus led the disciples a little way into the garden. "Wait here," He said.

Then Jesus asked Peter, James, and John to go farther into the garden with Him. "Watch and pray," Jesus told them.

Jesus moved on a little further. Quietly He prayed, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me." He longed for someone to share His sorrow. He returned to the three men. But they slept. Three times He prayed that same prayer. Three times He sought comfort from

the three disciples.

One time their sleepy eyes saw something strange about Jesus. He looked sad and tired. Was that blood on His face? But sleep felt so-o-o-o good . . . and soon they were sleeping again.

A bright light shone from Jesus' direction. A shining angel cradled Jesus in his arms, talking quietly. Jesus became calm and serene. He had been strengthened to meet the cross.

"Get up," said Jesus to Peter, James, and John. "It is time to go. My enemies are coming."

They hardly reached the other disciples

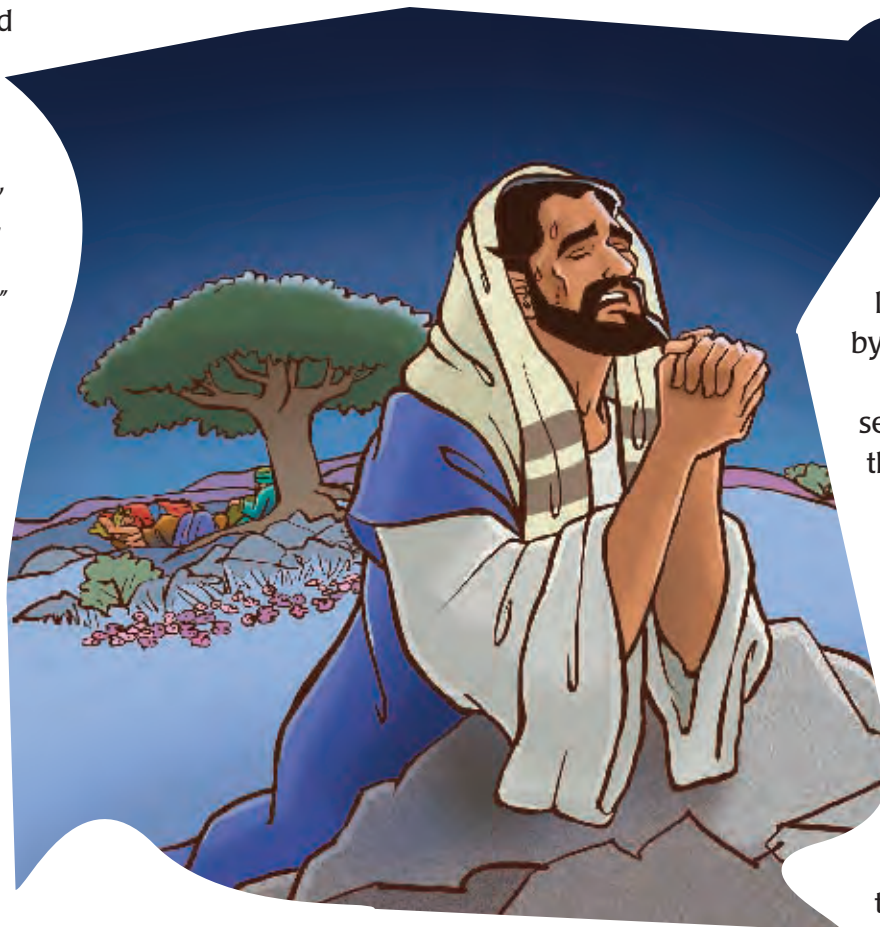
when lights of a mob approached. Many soldiers, people, and some leaders of Israel were led into the garden by Judas.

"Whom do you seek?" Jesus asked the mob.

"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered.

"I am He," Jesus replied.

Suddenly a bright light came between Jesus and the evil mob. Then the angel



The Message

*I thank Jesus for choosing
to save me.*

Memory Verse

*“ ‘Father, if you are
willing, take this cup
from me; yet not my will,
but yours be done’ ”*

(Luke 22:42, NIV).

withdrew. Jesus could have escaped, but He chose to stand before the mob. The disciples watched, silent with wonder.

The mob quickly gathered around Jesus. He spoke again. “If you seek Me, let these others go their way,” He said, pointing to the disciples. Then the soldiers used ropes to tie Jesus’ hands together. They jerked the ropes tight. They were so rough!

The disciples couldn’t believe their eyes. They thought Jesus would just walk away. He

had done that before. But this was different. The mob began to move back down into the valley. They were taking Jesus toward the

high priest’s palace! This was unbelievable!

The disciples turned and ran away. They couldn’t understand why Jesus would let Himself suffer like this. But this suffering was what it took to save them, and the entire world.

It was amazing love that led Jesus to choose to suffer—love for all those He and His Father had created. Love for you and for me.





S A B B A T H

DO If possible, go for a Sabbath walk with your family in a park or woods. If the weather is nice, take blankets, spread them out, lie down, and rest.

READ Read your Bible lesson story together. Then read and discuss Luke 22:42.

SING Sing "Alleluia" (Sing for Joy, No. 16) before prayer. Thank Jesus for His great love.

S U N D A Y

READ With your family, read and discuss Matthew 26:36-39.

DO Make a diorama (scene in a small box) of Jesus and His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane. Place a rock in it with Jesus praying nearby. Place trees and flowers in the background.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family.

SING Sing "O, How He Loves You and Me" (Sing for Joy, No. 28) before prayer.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Matthew 26:42-46 for worship.

DO How many times did Jesus pray? (verse 44) _____

DO Write Jesus' prayer (your memory verse) on a paper cup. Decorate the cup and keep it where you can see it often. What does this memory verse mean to you?

SING Before prayer, sing "More About Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 38). Thank Jesus for choosing to die for you and your family.

M O N D A Y

DO During family worship read Matthew 26:40. Ask a family member to help you find information about sleep. Tell three new things you learned. How many hours of sleep do you need each night? _____
Thank Jesus for rest.

SING Say your memory verse together. Then sing "Thank You, Jesus" (Sing for Joy, No. 101).

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Together with your family, read and discuss Matthew 26:47-54. Which one of the disciples betrayed Jesus? (verses 48, 49) What is a betrayer? Use a dictionary if you don't know.

THINK Why did Judas betray Jesus? Read Luke 22:3-6 and *The Desire of Ages*, page 716. How do people betray Jesus today?

PRAY Pray that you and your family will stay true to Jesus and not betray Him.

The Garden of Gethsemane was probably a rich person's private garden on the side of the Mount of Olives.



